

Forget five-star hotels. If you really want to feel completely away, book into a farm.



Jennifer Martiné Hidden Villa's annual Tomato Tasting

Hidden Villa, Los Altos Hills, CA. Since 1970, the educational nonprofit Hidden Villa has hosted camps and farm field trips in Los Altos Hills. A Spanish-style estate on 1,600 acres of trust land in the middle of the Santa Cruz Mountains, it has no cell service or Internet access —what it does have are classes on everything from milking cows to making sausage and cheese. In other words, it's a glimpse into life before the iEra. Starting August 21 (the farm runs camps until then), you can stay in a rustic bunk-bedded cabin or the idyllic Josephine's Retreat, a sunny thumbprint-size cottage accessed by a small trail through the woods. *Cabins from \$65, public programs from \$10; hiddenvilla.org*

Agritourism is on the rise in the USA

Love hiking? You're in luck. Hidden Villa in Los Altos Hills, California, is surrounded by protected wilderness and miles of lush trails. Dan Quinn

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Budding agrarians can join the Environmental Education Program, which provides hands-on learning to 20,000 students annually. Dan Quinn

Hidden Villa
Los Altos Hills, California

When you think of Silicon Valley you probably don't envision the countryside, but maybe you should. Forget high-speed internet and social media — Hidden Villa (a nonprofit educational organization) is a tech-free zone, where roosters replace alarm clocks and the gentle babbling of Adobe Creek lulls you sleep at night. In addition to farm stays, the 1,651-acre land trust hosts after-school programs and summer camps.

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Renovated in 2001, the Hostel demonstrates a dedication to energy efficiency and sustainable design that earned it a coveted award from the American Institute of Architects. Laurie Schutters